Till December, 2006 about 40% funds were being transferred by means of Telegraphic Transfer and the balance was sent through Demand Drafts. Now about 98% of the total Budget is being remitted through electronic means i.e. through Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) and Core Banking Solutions (CBS), etc. and the time lag has been significantly reduced.

Sensitizing panchayats about NREGS

*298. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) as the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS) is covering 330 districts from April, 2007, whether fool-proof modalities have been evolved to avoid any discrepancies pointed out in the CAG Report for period covering February, 2006-March, 2007; and

(b) as the Gram Panchayats have been actively involved in issuance of Job-Cards and giving work or compensation thereof to the eligible rural household, whether panchayats have been sensitized to extend positive support to help intended beneficiaries under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Ministry of Rural Development had requested CAG to undertake performance audit of the implementation of NREGA in phase I districts for the year 2006-07. Accordingly, CAG conducted audit in 68 districts of 26 States. CAG submitted its draft report on 17.12.2007 to the Ministry. The draft report has been examined in the Ministry and has also been shared with all the States. CAG has made a total of 1416 findings in its draft report. These mainly relate to procedures such as application for employment, issue of dated receipts, job card formats, muster rolls, maintenance of record registers. In addition, 34 cases relate to financial matters. These are regarding instances of use of funds for non permissible activities/ineligible persons/agencies and incorrect accounting of expenditure. The States have given their responses to the observations made by CAG in the draft report. These have been sent to CAG. State responses are in the process of examination by CAG for finalisation of the performance audit report of NREGA.

The government has evolved the following modalities to avoid the discrepancies pointed out in the draft CAG report.

(1) Transparency

(i) Payment of wages through workers accounts in Banks/post offices:

(a) Instructions have been issued to state governments for coordination with the Department of Posts to ensure that accounts of NREGA workers are opened in Banks/Post offices for payment of wages and are made fully effective during 2008-09.

(b) Draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the State governments and Department of Post to ensure smooth payment to workers through their postal accounts is being finalised.

(c) Workers accounts in Banks/Post offices have been opened in some states. Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand and karnataka have taken the lead in this direction. Other states that have reported their progress so far are Bihar, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Madhya Pradesh. A total of 11028779 accounts have so far been opened in these states. Remaining states are taking action in this regard.

(ii) States have been advised to conduct social audit of each and every work of NREGA within three months. Social Audit has been done in 76000 Gram Panchayats.

(iii) Citizen Information Board has been introduced. This board is to be displayed at all prominent places. This will enable the local community to know the works being undertaken under NREGA and would also facilitate the process of spreading awareness about the programme.

(2) Generating Awareness

Steps taken to generate awareness about NREGA are:

(i) Initiatives taken by State Government:

(a) Gram Sabhas and one day orientation of all Sarpanches at the Block level have been held.

(b) Leaflets and brochures in local language are being provided.

(c) Village camps have been organized by the District teams and Self-Help Groups are being associated in the awareness generation

(ii) Action taken by the Central Government:

(a) CAPART has been asked to provide training to the NGOs and Civil Society organisations associated in the awareness generation campaign.

(b) The Government of India has decided to introduce awards to be known as Rozgar Jagrookta Puraskar (Employment awareness awards) to recognize the outstanding contribution by the civil society organisations for promoting effective implementation of NREGA in different states of the country.

(c) Use of media, TV spots, radio jingles, advertisements, films.

(d) Development and dissemination of brochures and peoples primers.

(3) Vigilance and monitoring

(i) Implementation of NREG Act is monitored on regular basis. Vigilance and Monitoring Committees have been set up at State as well as district levels. Local MPs are the members of the district Vigilance and Monitoring Committees. Village level Vigilance and Monitoring Committees have also been set up for local monitoring. Members of the Central Employment Guarantee Council also undertake field visits to various districts. National Level Monitors and Area Officers visit various districts to over see the progress of the Act. So far, NLMs have made 331 visits to Phase I and Phase II districts.

(ii) Muster Roll verification has to be done in a campaign mode and consolidated reports sent to the Ministry. So far, 4621120 Muster rolls have been verified. 1126914 Muster rolls have been placed on the website.

(4) Regular Review of NREGA

(i) Review with State Governments

(a) During the year 2007-2008, three Regional Review Committee meetings have been held to cover review of all States. These were held at Bhubaneswar (16-17 September), Jaipur (24-25 September) and Guwahati (9-10 October).

(b) Review meeting with State Secretaries (Rural Development) of all States was held on 18.12.07 in Delhi.

(c) Meeting of the Performance review Committee was held in Delhi during 16-17 January, 2008.

(d) A meeting with State Secretaries (RD) of all States was held in Delhi in January, 2008 to discuss the draft CAG report.

(ii) State specific reviews

Five state specific review meetings have been held. These were with the Government of Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra.

(iii) Interaction with representatives of people

Progress of NREGA was reviewed in the interactive session with Members of Parliament held during 20th-23rd August, 2007 and 5th-6th September, 2007.

Minister of Rural Development has sent 4 letters to Chief Ministers of all States and 3 letters to Members of Parliament informing them about the status of implementation of the Act from time to time. Monthly progress report of NREGA in respect of the district of constituency of each Member of Parliament is sent through e-mail.

(5) MIS/e-knowledge Network

(i) A comprehensive Web-based MIS *www.nrega.nic.in* has been implemented which places all data in public domain. This data pertains to workers' entitlements like registration, job cards, muster rolls, employment demanded and provided; work data like sanctioned shelf of works, work estimates, work in progress, measurement; Financial indicators like funds available/spent, amount paid as wages, materials and administrative expenses. Data software has been engineered for cross verification of records and for report generation. Details of 25001781 Job Cards and 1126914 Muster rolls have been placed on the website.

(ii) Ministry of Rural Development has introduced e-knowledge network for effective implementation of NREGA. Innovations at worksites and local solutions are very helpful in meeting the challenges of implementation of NREGA across the country. E-knowledge network helps in lateral transfer of these local solutions, especially among the District Programme Coordinators. The knowledge network aims at connecting practitioners and providing solutions on demand through a knowledge pool built up dynamically by exchange of information, ideas and best practices.

(b) Yes, Sir. Gram Panchayats have been assigned a pivotal role in the implementation of NREGA. They are responsible for planning of works, registering households, issuing job cards, allocating employment, executing at least 50% of the works in terms of cost and monitoring the implementation of the scheme at the village level. Instructions have been issued to all States that one dedicated Gram Rojgar Sahayak(GRS) may be appointed in

each Gram Panchayat and salary to the GRS shall be payable out of the 4% administrative expenditure under the Act. States have also been directed to organize training programmes for the Panchayati Raj Institutions functionaries. So far 927766 PRI functionaries have been given training under NREGA.

Theft of expensive components of T-90 tanks

†*299. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the incident of theft of very expensive components of T-90 tanks from the Gun Carriage Factory, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh has come to light;

(b) if so, the names of the components with their cost and the action taken so far after this incident;

(c) whether it is the first instance of theft or such theft has taken place earlier also; and

(d) the details of action taken by Government and efforts being made for prevention of theft from the important ordnance factory of the country?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) No, Sir. Theft of expensive components of T-90 tanks has not taken place at Gun Carriage Factory, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) Ordnance Factories are strategic defence establishments of the country and a structured security system is in place for prevention of theft.

Establishment of Military Tribunal

*300. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently decided to set up a Military Tribunal in the country;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government also proposes to set up its Benches in different parts of the country;

(d) whether a Bench of the Tribunal is likely to be set up in the State of Uttarakhand; and

(e) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (e) The Government have decided to establish an Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT) for the adjudication or trial of disputes and complaints with respect to commission, appointments, enrolment and conditions of service in respect of persons subject to the Army Act, 1950, the Navy Act, 1957 and the Air Force Act, 1950 and also to provide for appeals arising out of orders, findings or sentences of Courts Martial held under the said Acts and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

The Principal Bench of AFT is being set up at New Delhi.

In addition to the Principal Bench, Regional Benches of the Tribunal will also be set up as per requirement. No decision as yet has been taken by the Government with regard to the setting up of the Regional Benches.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.